

CALIFORNIA'S CROP PRODUCTION REPORT

Released: September 12, 2000

The September crop production forecasts are from a survey conducted during the first week of September 2000 and include the following commodities:

Corn - The *corn* acreage harvested for grain remains unchanged from June and August at 235,000 acres and the yield per acre also is unchanged at 170 bushels. Compared to 1999, the acreage and yield are 15% and 3% higher, respectively. The resulting production is 39,950,000 bushels, 18% higher than 1999. No unusual pests or weather related problems were reported from June to September. The crop was reported in good condition.

Cotton - *Upland cotton* production in California is forecast at 2,000,000 bales, up 27% from 1999, with harvested acreage of 765,000. The yield is forecast to be 1,255 pounds per acre. The forecast for *American Pima cotton* production is 360,000 bales, down 3% from last month. Harvested acreage is estimated at 144,000, with a yield of 1,200 pounds per acre. The cotton crop continued to develop slightly ahead of normal. The crop has progressed well thanks to beneficial weather and good growing conditions. The cool weather in late August did slow crop development in some areas, but was not significant. Good boll retention has been reported for this year's crop.

Oranges, Navel - The initial 2000-01 California Navel *orange* forecast from 127,000 bearing acres is 34,000,000 boxes, down 15% from last season's crop. Of this total, 32,500,000 boxes are expected to be produced in the Central Valley. The forecast is based on the Navel Orange Objective Measurement Survey conducted in the Central Valley. Fruit set is down significantly from last year, but individual fruit size is large. The crop is maturing well with harvest expected to start in Kern County by mid-October.

Pistachios - California's 2000 *pistachio* acreage and production are estimated at 74,600 acres and 205,000,000 pounds, respectively. The acreage is only 5% greater compared to 1999. This is in contrast to the forecast record-high production, which would be 67% higher than last year. The resulting yield, 2,750 pounds per acre, is 59% greater than 1999. The number of trees per acre, at 133, is similar to last year. With the increased acreage, the total number of trees increases from 9,443,000 to 9,921,800 trees.

Rice - All *rice* production in California for 2000 is forecast at 43,292,000 cwt., up 18% from the revised 1999 production. The yield is forecast to be 7,900 pounds per acre. Planted and harvested acreage remains at 550,000 and 548,000 acres respectively. Good growing conditions in California's rice producing regions have resulted in a good crop stand. Weed infestations and insect and disease problems have been minor. Initial harvest began in some areas of the State.

Rice acreage and production for 1998 and 1999 were revised as follows:

1998 - Acres planted, 460,000; Acres harvested, 458,000; Yield, 6,850 pounds per acre; Production, 31,136,000 cwt.

1999 - Acres planted, 510,000; Acres harvested, 505,000; Yield, 7,270 pounds per acre; Production, 36,690,000 cwt.

Sugar Beets - *Sugar Beet* production is estimated at 3,267,000 tons, down 5% from a year ago. Harvested acreage for the 2000 crop is estimated at 99,000 acres, down 8% from 1999. The yield is estimated at 33.0 tons per acre, up 3% from last year. Favorable weather conditions during spring planting made way for excellent yields and production. Harvested acreage was not affected by the Payment-In-Kind (PIK) Program, due to the fact that the plow-down date for these acres is not until mid-September.

Walnuts - The 2000 California *walnut* production is forecast at 245,000 tons, down 13% from the 1999 crop of 283,000 tons. Bearing acreage is estimated at 193,000. The forecast is based on the Walnut Objective Measurement Survey conducted during August. The survey indicated a State-average nut set of 1,483, down 13% from 1999. The San Joaquin Valley set is 1,204, down 4% from last year; the Coastal area set is 1,195, down 12% from 1999; and the Sacramento Valley set is 1,812, down 17% from last year. The percent of sound kernels in-shell was 96.9% Statewide.

Production forecasts are released on a monthly basis and do not reflect final production estimates. Late summer and fall harvests may change these estimates considerably. The next production forecast will be issued October 12, 2000.